United Nations E/2006/NGO/34

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2006

Original: English

Substantive session of 2006
Geneva, 3-28 July 2006
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by the Institute for the Development of Education, Arts and Leisure, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100

06-35405 (E) 140606

Statement

In its statement, I.D.E.A.L., the Institute for the Development of Education, Arts and Leisure, demonstrates by example in British Columbia, Canada, "how we have planned the adoption of the above theme in our activities" and future projects.

In 1993, Dr. Natacha Kolesar, founder and president, with a group of parents, professionals from different countries initiated a *new educational system* on 800 gorgeous acres in Jaffray, British Columbia, Canada, offering a wide range of knowledge in the fields of self-development and human behaviour, the arts, natural health, organic gardening, educational travel and leisure activities.

Most of the day's activities are planned and shared collectively, with respect to each individual's aptitudes and the search for a balance between our inner/outer selves. Community life includes sharing garden, kitchen and homecare duties, in the belief that all forms of activities can offer an opportunity for education. There are over 30 educators teaching the children at I.D.E.A.L. and some are donating their times and talents in the neighbouring schools and communities of British Columbia and beyond!

With respect to "generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development", the 75 permanent residents of I.D.E.A.L. share material possessions, living space and food production.

At I.D.E.A.L., the educational activities are incorporated into a collective living experience which is used as a site of apprenticeship and a tool for learning. The educational system is based on the three-fold structure of the human being, the intellect, the heart and will, and on their different needs and functions. Our goal is to create activities and exercises to feed these different sides of our being: our mental, emotional and physical bodies.

I.D.E.A.L. is contributing to the concepts stated in the World Declaration on Education for All (1990).The I.D.E.A.L. community also incorporates the "four pillars" of education in daily life:

- learning to know, that is acquiring the instruments of understanding
- learning to do, so as to be able to act creatively on one's environment
- learning to live together, so as to participate and cooperate with other people in all human activities, and
- learning to be, which is about individual development and the shaping of the personality which starts with knowing oneself

I.D.E.A.L. offers a global approach to parenting covering not only the period of gestation, but also the pre-conception and post-natal periods. I.D.E.A.L. is planning to build a prenatal education centre where specialists in various fields will assist, instruct, and prepare future parents, pregnant women and young students from local and international communities. Therese Plair, a United Nations representative for I.D.E.AL. has initiated a prenatal centre in New York.

Utilizing I.D.E.A.L.'s philosophy of creativity, beauty, and "education through experience", many participants, guests, and visitors have been given an opportunity to develop an exciting and totally different work for themselves to share with others around the world.